

NSC BRIEFING

30 September 1957

SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

- I. Since the June changes in the Soviet presidium, Yugoslavia has been lining up more and more with the USSR on foreign policy matters. This has been especially apparent since the Tito-Khrushchev meeting in Rumania (1-2 August), when Khrushchev seems to have done a real selling job.

25X1C

- A. [REDACTED] visiting Belgrade in early September, was disappointed by the pro-Soviet attitude of the Yugoslav leaders.
- B. During Tito's meeting with Gomulka in mid-September, the Yugoslavs officially endorsed the Oder-Neisse line.
- C. Belgrade has accepted the Soviet-inspired Rumanian proposal for a Balkan conference, and probably had a hand in its preparation.
- D. Opening of trade negotiations with East Germany on governmental level is another step toward recognition of that country.
- E. Finally, Marshal Zhukov is scheduled to arrive in Belgrade next week (8 October).
1. After last year's military intervention in Hungary, Soviets may feel Zhukov is best man to reassure Tito that the USSR is planning to go ahead gradually with a more liberal policy in Eastern Europe.
2. It could also be that Khrushchev hopes that Zhukov can lure Tito a little closer with a broad offer of military assistance.

NO CHANGE IN CLASS.  
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II. With the removal of the leading Stalinists from the Soviet leadership, Tito appears to be convinced that the present Soviet leadership under Khrushchev stands for peace, liberalization and a gradual decrease of Soviet interference in Satellite internal affairs.

A. In his recent article for Foreign Affairs Tito asserts that since death of Stalin things have really changed for the better in the USSR.

B. Yugoslavs claim that they support Khrushchev in order to strengthen his position against Stalinist elements still remaining in the Soviet party.

III. It is still not clear how far the Yugoslav leaders will move toward Moscow, for some of them are apparently not too pleased with Tito's present course.

25X1C

A. [REDACTED] who has recently visited Belgrade says he knows that Kardelj and the Slovene party, as well as parts of the Croat party, were opposed to the increasing rapprochement between Belgrade and Moscow a year ago, before the Hungarian revolution. He believes that they feel the same way today.

B. Such differences could explain the announcement last month that the Yugoslav party congress--scheduled for November--has been postponed until next April.

C. In any event all Yugoslav leaders are still determined to maintain their national independence.

1. Although the Tito-Gomulka communiqué endorsed the Soviet line on foreign policy issues, it reemphasized the right